



Foggy Bottom News

February 2003

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and the West End

Volume 45, No. 4

H&W Hours & Access Debated

At a hearing in early December, the Board of Zoning Adjustment heard testimony on the University's request to increase the hours and number of users at the fitness center which opened in August 2001. GWU claims it is underused, attracting an average daily total of about 2400 users. The University's statement listed the center's current user pool at 26,800 (about 17,000 students and 9,800 faculty and staff).

The BZA tentatively set January 13 for testimony from the ANC and others who are in opposition to the request, as well as a possible vote on the proposal. It has now been postponed until a February meeting.

The center currently closes at 10:00 p.m. weekdays and 8:00 p.m. on Sunday; the request is for a closing of 1:00 a.m. every day but

Saturday. Use of the center is now restricted to students, faculty and staff, and GWU would like to open it up to "those who live and work in the Foggy Bottom/West End area, University alumni, students, faculty and staff of other University campuses [Mt. Vernon and GW's Virginia campus], guests of the above members, and friends and supporters of the University. . . ." They hope to add 3000 memberships to the facility.

Representatives from the Foggy Bottom/West End ANC and the Foggy Bottom Association have several objections to the lessening of the restrictions, citing increased noise, added pedestrian and automobile traffic, and unfair competition with privately-operated and tax-paying health clubs. (GW proposes to charge less than

Health Center, to page 6

GWU v. D.C. Argued in Appeals Court

By Jim McLeod

Home, property rights, neighborhood, and academic freedom—these were some of the topics that attracted dozens of persons to an oral argument in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit October 24, 2002. Judges Douglas Ginsburg, Karen Henderson and Stephen Williams were there because both George Washington Uni-

versity (GWU) and the District government, on behalf of the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA), had appealed an order issued by U.S. District Court Judge Louis Oberdorfer. The order was in response to GWU's challenge to the BZA's conditional approval of the 2001-2009 GWU Campus Plan.

Appeals, to page 5

Update

West End Library to Reopen February 3

After being closed for several months for interior renovations, the West End Library is scheduled to reopen on Monday, February 3. Barbara Kubinski and the rest of the staff, who have been assigned to other libraries in the interim, are expected to return.

Changes include extensive repainting, new furniture and other improvements.

ANC To Oppose UPD Power

Title XI of D.C. Council Bill 14-0610, introduced last March, calls for "Campus Police Force Cooperative Agreements," entitling campus police forces to "assist the [Metropolitan Police] Department in carrying out crime prevention and law enforcement activities in the District of Columbia." It would allow campus police to patrol and arrest in areas adjacent to college campuses.

The Foggy Bottom/West End ANC voted to oppose the legislation which conceivably could decrease MPD patrol of the neighborhood, use less-trained officers, and possibly present a conflict-of-interest if lawbreakers are students. A hearing was held by the Council Committee on the Judiciary, and was supported by the Georgetown ANC, the Citizens Association of Georgetown, and representatives of several universities.

Update, to page 6

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Guest Speaker:

Jeffrey J. Sherman

Managing Director
Trammell Crow Company

Monday, January 27, 2002

The Melrose Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next meeting: Monday, February 24, 2003)

FBA To Get \$3.6 Million for Backing Condo Project

By Gary Griffiths

Reprinted from The West End Guide for January 2003

Trammell Crow Co., the buyer of Columbia Hospital for Women, will donate as much as \$3.6 million to the Foggy Bottom Association in exchange for the association's full support of the developer's plans to turn the hospital at 2425 L Street into luxury condominiums.

The agreement was announced at the December 11 meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A, where Trammell Crow presented its plans to demolish all additions to the hospital and to erect two nine-story towers on either side of the original 1916 building. The additions to the hospital, made in 1958, 1978, and 1987, are considered "non-contributing" to the historic building, and will be razed.

The original roofline, now topped with air conditioning machinery, will be restored.

The new complex, as designed by the firm of Shalom Baranes Associates, would have 200 to 240 residential units, with the largest units selling for about \$900,000. The smallest units will have at least 800 square feet.

The development would also have a fair amount of "neighborhood-serving" retail space: somewhere between 20,000 and 28,000 square feet. Trammell Crow's managing director, Jeffrey Sherman, said that in addition to a small grocery, "we have interest from a pharmacy and a hardware store." He added that the firm has been in talks with two grocery concerns: Marvelous Market and Trader Joe's. About 330 parking spaces would be incorporated, 300 for residents and 30 for the grocery.

Sherman told the *Guide* his goal was to start construc-

Columbia, to page 6

Foggy Bottom Folks

News about FB folks is not always happy, but the not-so-happy news needs to be printed as well. **Mary K. Nenno**, longtime resident of Columbia Plaza, has moved from D.C. to a nursing home in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. We hope her new home is a comfortable one with some new friends to enjoy.

Another longtime resident, **Bob Niemic**, has moved from his condominium at the Westbridge to another near Dupont Circle, one which obviously suits him better. Bob served earlier on the FBA Board and remained interested in neighborhood affairs, and that interest will be missed. It has taken a while for the news to get to the News, but some months ago **Ruth** and **Ed Knauff** moved themselves to Vantage House in Columbia, Maryland. They had lived in the Griffin and Ruth also served on the FBA Board. And it was also some months ago

that **Mary Lou Hennessy** left Foggy Bottom for Thomas House on Massachusetts Avenue, a not-too-far-away senior residence.

Several years ago **Mari-lyn Rubin**, who operates Encore Inc., a popular tour company, organized a buffet Thanksgiving dinner for residents who were "home alone or just didn't want to cook." It was held again this year at a local restaurant, providing a warm holiday feeling for the group who attended.

Some happy "arrival" news from I Street. Just before Christmas **Nina Rudina** gave birth to her second daughter, Iva (pronounced Eva). Her proud father is **Roumin**, and her big sister is Ina. Visiting from Bulgaria to help out was **Petra Roumin**, her paternal grandmother.

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Tiverton Assn. Elects Officers

The Tiverton/Square 37 Tenants Association held its annual meeting January 7, electing officers for 2003. The association represents tenants of the Tiverton apartment building at 1121 24th Street, N.W. It plans to continue to meet with local officials and civil leaders over the fate of both the building and Square 37, which includes the West End Library, according to Michael Malloy, who was elected president.

"We're concerned that our status as one of the last if not the last rent-controlled building in the West End be protected," Malloy said.

The officers for the new year are Michael Malloy, President, Deborah Akel, Vice President, Keri Culver, Secretary, and Bill Wicker, Treasurer.

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FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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Ellie Becker

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CHW Developer To Speak at FBA Meeting

The speaker at the January 27 meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association will be Jeffrey J. Sherman who is directing the proposed development at the site of the Columbia Hospital for Women. Sherman is Managing Director of the Trammell Crow Company which has purchased the property and plans to build a condominium complex there, including neighborhood-serving retail.

Sherman has been with Trammell Crow since 1999, and has been responsible for developing more than three million square feet of office and residential projects. Prior

to this position, he operated his own firm, following five years with the railroad company RF&P, during which the company became heavily involved in real estate development. Included were a retail center and a mixed-use project at Potomac Yards in Alexandria.

His presentation will include detailed information on TCC's plans for the site, as well as an update on its path through various regulatory agencies.

The meeting will be held at the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 7:30 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

BETTY LAWRENCE OLSEN

September 19, 1932–January 14, 1996

Foggy Bottom News columnist and advertising manager;
Claridge House resident and board member;
Owner, Foggy Bottom pet sitting service;
Mother to longtime Foggy Bottom resident and
GWU graduate Kirsten Olsen;
Neighborhood activist and friend.

Your contributions helped make Foggy Bottom the vibrant neighborhood it is today. Your memory lives on in those of us who knew you. We miss your sense of humor, caring ways and love for Foggy Bottom.

Your daughter Kirsten, family and friends



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From the President



By FBA President
Ron Cocome

Is UPD Replacing MPD in Foggy Bottom?

Hidden behind the innocent or at least innocuous-sounding title of "The Omnibus Public Safety Agency Reform Amendment Act of 2002," lurks a very great danger to Foggy Bottom, as well as the District itself.

Included in this legislation, now before the D.C. Council Committee on the Judiciary, is language providing for "jurisdiction-sharing" between our professional Metropolitan Police and the something-less-than-professional university security personnel, including that of George Washington University. This means effectively removing MPD jurisdiction from the campus and surrounding university-owned property.

Although you might doubt it, given the current leadership of MPD, the goal of most of our highly-trained police officers is to provide for public safety and the enforcement of District law.

On the other hand, the mandated objectives of the

university security forces are to protect the university cash-cow student clients from dealings with the police.

I have spoken with university security personnel who have explicitly told me as much. I have spoken with District police officers who have not only confirmed this adversarial role but have also sadly confirmed that they have been directed from the highest levels of the MPD that Metro police officers are not welcome on campus unless called in by university security.

D.C. Laws Are Being Violated

Just read the ever-growing crime reports in the student paper, the GW Hatchet. Drug busts, firearms violations and worse. Yet, few lead to arrest. Some are ignored. Most are reviewed by student judicial bodies. But these are District laws being violated—crimes being committed. And what about the greater secu-

rity concerns created by the removal of our professional police force from an area abutting the Federal enclave? What about you and me walking through the campus area being a victim of crime and having no recourse to the real police?

This existing situation is dangerous enough and should be quickly righted. Yet instead our elected government is poised to make a bad thing worse.

The history and the behind-the-scenes negotiations of this ill-advised legislation are no more heartening. A public hearing was held with the bare minimum of public notice. Our ANC was not even notified and the date chosen for the hearing was the same day on which two other hearings of great importance to our neighborhood were held.

Behind the scenes, this proposed scheme appeals to the Chief of the MPD because some of his officers can be freed up. The universities can institutionalize protection of their base interests and, ironically, can then claim they are offering a community amenity. The only ones who suffer are you and I, whose security is jeopardized, the majority of stu-

dents who are law-abiding, as well as the minimally-trained non-unionized university security personnel who are endangered.

In fact, this legislation would extend the UPD's responsibility by removing District police presence from dormitory-style buildings off-campus in the midst of what little is left of our residential community.

Early Mark-Up Planned

Mark-up on this sad legislation was deferred last year because the chair of the Judiciary Committee was up for re-election. But committee staff tells us that a mark-up session is planned for early this year.

District residents are the highest-taxed in the nation; at the very least we are entitled to the security of a profes-

sional police force—trained and under oath.

Now is the time to make yourself heard. The Committee on the Judiciary is chaired by Kathy Patterson. Our Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans is a member of this committee as is At-Large Councilmember Harold Brazil. The other committee members are Kevin Chavous and Sharon Ambrose.

The three other At-Large Councilmembers who do not sit on this committee are Carol Schwartz, Phil Mendelson and David Catania. Then there is always the Council Chair Linda Cropp and of course Mayor Williams. Home rule gives us a large cast of characters. The Council's phone number is 724-8000; the address is 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., 20004.

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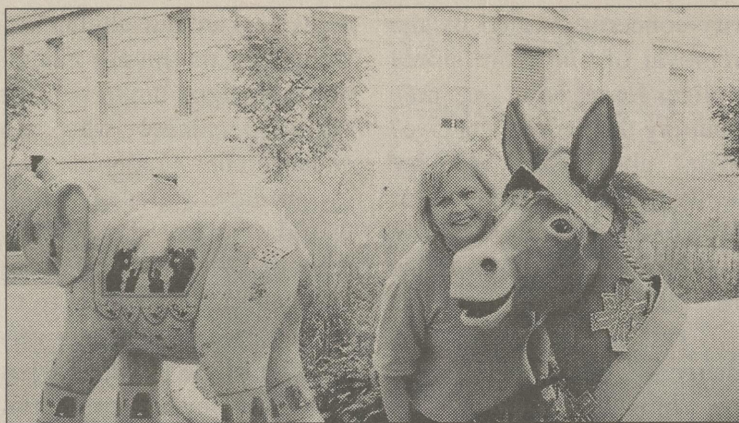


PA's Inspire An Urban Safari

By Monica Bernstein

When I first heard about the Party Animals early last summer, I was charmed by the idea and loved the clever nomenclature. As pictures of donkeys and elephants started appearing in newspapers and on TV, I conceived the idea of walking to as many of the critters as possible—an urban photo safari, if you will!

It became quickly obvious to me that I needed to organize my walks. Rather than running around D.C. in hopes of scoring one or the other party animal, I looked up the locations on the Washington Post or Metro map and then set out to try to find (and photograph) as many PA's as possible.



Urban trekker Monica Bernstein with two of her pursuits

On a typical day, I would cover 10-12 miles on foot; however, finding the critters was often a challenge since their locations on the maps were at best approximate. In some cases, it took several tries to actually locate a specific donkey or elephant, but there was always joy and excitement in finding them. Over time, some of the animals were moved or taken off the streets, particularly if they had been damaged or vandalized which, sad to say, was the case in some instances. In walking to the various sites and shooting a photograph, I really did get a sense of achievement and even "spiritual ownership." Over the course of my project, I estimate that I have walked well over 120 miles, found around 188 Party Animals and took several hundred photos.

In September, due to the impending World Bank/IMF-related demonstrations, the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, which had sponsored and managed the Party Animals, decided to

move a whole slew of them to the American University campus for safekeeping. I couldn't wait to go up there and visit so many of my "friends" in one place, a veritable PA zoo! It was such a delight to see them lined up and to take pictures of some PA's which had previously defied my efforts to find them or retake pictures of others just for the heck of it. By this time, my project had become a quest!

And finally the day came when I realized that all PA's had vanished from D.C.'s streets and parks. Then I read about the auction and which PA's had been sold and by this time we were well into



The two Columbia Plaza PA's before being moved to their permanent lobby homes

autumn. But the joy wasn't entirely over for, as it turned out, Columbia Plaza had bought two Party Animals which are on permanent display in the main lobbies and, moreover, the 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue mall has become a kind of Party Animal refuge for some of the unsold animals.

In a city not known for its sense of whimsy, the Party Animals were a welcome relief from "politics as usual" and provided residents and visitors with a more light-hearted image of the nation's capital. Thank you, D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities for inspiring me

to rediscover the city I first fell in love with 38 years ago.

Ed. note: One of the PA's was the work of Foggy Bottom artist Shirley Koller, who has lived in Foggy Bottom for over 30 years. Her party animal was displayed at the Duke Ellington School for the Arts, and then purchased by a buyer in McLean, Virginia. Now working almost exclusively as a sculptor, the local artist also acts as a curator for private art collections such as the one at the American Association for the Advancement of Science building in downtown Washington.



Shirley Koller at work on her PA, "Donkey Fractals"

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Appeals, from page 1

Giving Meaning to Campus Boundaries

Lutz Prager of the D.C. Office of Corporation Counsel argued in support of the BZA's actions and focused on three conditions that Judge Oberdorfer found denied GWU substantive due process. One: that GWU had to provide on-campus housing for 5600 undergraduates by September 2006 (70% of 8000 students) and an additional bed for each undergraduate exceeding 8000. Two: that between September 2002 and September 2006, GWU must supply an equivalent amount of housing either on campus or outside the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods. And three: that GWU nonresidential development on campus could not be approved so long as the university has not met these long- and short-term housing goals.

Prager argued that even if the court of appeals found that GWU had property interests involved—a prerequisite for a federal District court to address these issues—there was no denial of substantive due process by the BZA. The District's brief stated that substantive due process is not to be used to invalidate state and local land use policy decisions except in the most extreme circumstance.

By the fall of 2001, GWU's full-time undergraduate population had grown to 8044, representing a 27% increase in three years, and nearly half of the student population had to find housing outside of the campus. GWU reported that as of November 1, 2001, it was housing 1551 undergraduates in six off-campus buildings in Foggy Bottom or West End that it, in whole or part, owned or leased—1129 New Hampshire, 2601 Virginia, 2424 Pennsylvania,* 950 24th, 2144 F, and Columbia Plaza. (*This reporter lives at 2424 Penn. and was a party in the underlying BZA proceeding.)

The District Court had found that the BZA's housing requirements had no rational connection to the Board's legitimate goal of a livable and stable residential area surrounding the campus. Prager argued that the housing conditions imposed by the BZA represented a reasonable approach to address one of the Board's findings that the number of students at the Foggy Bottom campus, combined with a lack of on-campus housing, is having an adverse impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. He noted that the BZA's condition that GWU not be permitted to construct nonresidential buildings on campus before it has met these housing goals would ensure that enough

space remains on campus to build enough student housing.

Many residents who testified at the BZA campus plan hearings in 2000 and 2001 emphasized that the Board had to give meaning to the campus boundaries. GWU argues that as a matter of right it can purchase housing property in the surrounding neighborhood and house some of its students there. But do the rights that go with that ownership include counting the property as meeting a campus plan housing requirement? Any other owner of such property would not be concerned about such a requirement. So does GWU have a property right at issue here? The judges' questions and remarks from the bench did not suggest to this reporter how they might decide that question.

Zoning Restrictions and Academic Freedom

Deborah Baum of the Shaw Pittman law firm argued for GWU. While GWU was in agreement with most of Judge Oberdorfer's order, it disagreed with the judge's finding that the BZA order did not violate GWU's right to academic freedom, and that the District's two-tier campus plan system was not on its face unconstitutional because it imposes additional

regulatory burdens on universities that it does not impose on other property owners. The core of these arguments was that (1) by requiring that more dorms be built on campus and restricting nonresidential on-campus building until housing goals were met, the BZA order interfered with GWU's freedom to allocate resources in furtherance of its educational mission, and (2) that the District's regulatory framework governing colleges and universities facially treated them differently from other similarly situated property owners, requiring GWU to first get a campus plan approved and then apply for a special exception permit before it can construct a building.

Judge Ginsburg offered the only clear clue as to any of the panel's possible ruling on the some of issues when he interrupted Baum near the end of her presentation. She had just turned to her academic freedom argument. Suggesting he was unpersuaded by that argument, Judge Ginsburg noted he did not find the presentation of

that argument to be of the same high caliber of the other arguments in GWU's brief.

Baum told this reporter that she was pleased with how the argument went; Prager declined to offer an assessment.

What's Next?

While there is no time limit on the court, it is expected to issue an opinion soon. Both parties would be free to appeal the decision of this three-judge panel to the full court or to the U.S. Supreme Court. If the court rules in favor of the District, it appears more likely that GWU would (1) return to U.S. District Court because Judge Oberdorfer left some issues from its challenge to the plan in abeyance, (2) resume a petition for review before the D.C. Court of Appeals (our "local" court of appeals) asking it to review the Board's decision using standards in the D.C. Administrative Procedures Act and the Human Rights Amendment Act of 2002, or (3) a combination of both (1) and (2).

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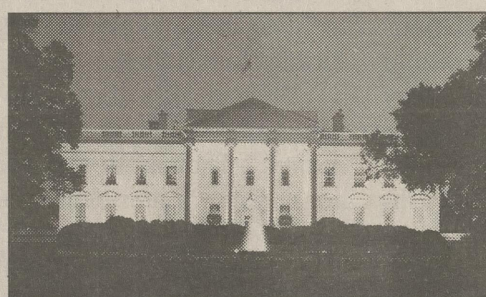
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Update, from page 1

ANC-2A Commissioners also stated that they did not receive notice and did not recognize from the title of the bill that it contained provisions of such importance. A statement by FBA President Ron Cocome in this issue outlines the possible ramifications of the legislation.

FB Cafe Closes for Renovation

The Foggy Bottom Cafe, located in The River Inn on 25th Street, was closed in December to allow for extensive renovation. Manager Carlos Delgado advised the News that he plans to reopen the restaurant in March with a new name, Dish. Part of the renovations planned evidently involved enlarging the restau-

rant by removing the east wall and windows and extending it out. While a permit for the construction was issued by the Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, its legality was questioned by ANC Commissioner Maria Tyler. According to Mrs. Tyler, in the early 1980's the city prohibited residential apartments being turned into hotels. At that time regulations were issued placing an "embargo" on adding to the commercial space in hotels such as The River Inn which had earlier been residential. When advised of the regulations, the hotel discontinued the work. General Manager Charles Nonaker told the News that that space would probably be used for landscaping of some kind.

Ron Cocome, the FBA's president, told the Guide. "Now we will have some where-withal to do this."

According to the agreement the FBA does not get the money until 10 days after "the receipt of complete building permits." If less than 350,000 square feet of space is approved, the FBA gets less money, and there has already been one setback to the plan by the District's Historic Preservation Review Board.

All parties were in favor of landmark status for the original hospital building, designed by Nathan Wyeth in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, with a red tile roof and two Y-shaped wings in front, allowing for open-air porches. But in addition to landmarking the building, the HPRB, at its December 19 meeting, landmarked the entire site, which could make construction of the two new towers more difficult.

Trammell Crow, the FBA, and the ANC opposed the landmarking of the entire site, and wanted the landmark status to apply only to the 1916 building, and the circular driveway and lawn in front of it.

But arguing in favor of landmark status for the entire site was a different neighborhood group, the Foggy Bottom Historic District Conservancy. The conservancy objects to the size of the new towers and would like them to be smaller and placed back further from L Street.

"The design that's proposed meets a lot of our desires," Thomas Bower, the conservancy's president, told the *Guide*. "but it's too much." Timothy Dinnee, a member of the HPRB staff, agreed with Bower, and wrote in his report and recommendation that the

wings, or towers, "are actually taller, longer, and as wide as the main block" which would "cause them to take visual precedence over the main block."

Trammell Crow and its architects, backed up by the ANC and FBA, were prepared to counter this view, and were scheduled to argue their case with drawings, scale models, and testimony. But HPRB chairman Tersh Boasberg said he felt "the whole process has been forced and rushed." He convinced the group to delay their presentation and meet with the board's staff to try to come up with some agreement or compromise.

A new hearing on the plan was scheduled for January 23.

Health Center, from page 1

\$300 per person for use of the facility, in contrast to several times that amount for private clubs which do not have the benefit of tax-exemption.)

ANC Chair Elizabeth Elliott was quoted in the Georgetown Current terming it, during the ANC meeting on the proposal, as "a commercial project masquerading as a university use." There is also the possibility that expanding the classes of users to alumni and neighbors might engender questions and even litigation based on the Human Rights Act.

Underuse "Self-Created"

Local leaders also reminded the Zoning Com-

mission that GW's problems of underuse are "self-created." Early on the neighbors had warned against the size of the center, as well as its location on the edge of the campus. BZA member John Parsons, during the hearing, asked the GW representatives if perhaps they had "overdesigned it." FBA President Ron Cocome, in a November 25 letter, said that GWU's current problem is "the result of poor planning" and an example of its "saying one thing to gain initial approval of a project, and then attempting to change the ground rules to fit its overall, but not previously enunciated position." At an ANC meeting GWU's counsel stated that, contrary to their testimony, they always knew it would be necessary to expand the user base.

Witnesses included FB residents who are in favor of opening it to the neighbors, although several questioned its use by State Department and other nearby working adults. Dana Bedden, principal of the School Without Walls senior high school on G Street, testified that he hopes his 300+ students would have access since they have little physical education space.

The city's Office of Planning cited negative neighborhood impacts and recommended that the hours be extended only until 11:30 p.m. OP's John Fondersmith also mentioned that pulling others into the student facility would turn it "into a larger, semi-commercial" operation.

Columbia Hospital Condo Plan Hits Snag, from page 1

tion "by next October or November."

Without the Foggy Bottom Association's cooperation, the development could not move forward, as the FBA and the ANC hold a binding covenant with the hospital, signed in 1987, that prohibits expansion beyond 230,000 square feet. The Trammell Crow plan contemplates a total development of 350,000 square feet.

As a government body, the ANC is prohibited from accepting money. But the FBA—which usually exists on an annual budget of about \$6500, mostly from the dues paid by its 500 members—agreed to release the hospital from the covenant, and to support the developer's plan "to the maximum density." The vote of the FBA's board to support the project and accept the funds was 11 to 2.

The ANC, likewise, passed a resolution at the December 11 meeting, amending the restrictive covenant, and supporting "the conceptual design plans . . . wherein the existing and new construction shall be built to a height of ninety feet and contain a maximum of 350,000 square feet of gross floor area."

ANC Commissioner Richard Price, who represents the West End single-member district, called the proposal "an exceptional and very exciting project."

There are no stipulations as to how the FBA would spend the \$3.6 million. Many of its past efforts have been devoted to stopping the expansion of George Washington University. With the new funds, it would be able to hire high-powered legal help.

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Neighborhood Datebook

Monday, January 27: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, featuring Jeffrey J. Sherman, Managing Director, Trammell Crow Company. Trammell Crow is the real estate development company which plans to build condominiums on the Columbia Hospital property. All residents are welcome. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 28: Public Roundtable on preliminary recommendations on the process, format, content and usefulness of the D.C. Comprehensive Plan. Council Chamber, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Info: 442-7624. 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 28-Wednesday, January 29: Flamenco dancer Sara Baras performs "Mariana Pineda" at Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. \$25-50. Info: 994-1423. 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 29: Evening of Spanish Dance, featuring Ziva's Spanish Dance Ensemble, accompanied by guitarists Guillermo Christie and Torcuato Zamora. Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770. \$16; members \$12. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 30: Four Costa Rican musical stars: pianist Juan Pablo Andrade, opera star Arthur Chacon, cellist Iram Field and flutist Tatiana Johanning, perform romantic chamber music. Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th Street, N.W. Concert followed by reception. Info: 639-1770. \$20; members \$12. 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 31: Concert by Bulgarian pianist Ralitz Patcheva, featuring music by Bach, Mendelssohn and other composers. Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, N.W. Info: 331-7287, ext. 22. 12:00 noon.

Friday, January 31: Community Meeting for residents of Police Service Area 207, which encompasses the area from Rock Creek Parkway to 22nd Street. Officers of the PSA, including Lt. Hutchinson, will address events in the PSA and answer questions. St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

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Friday, January 31-Saturday, February 1: Flamenco dancers Farruquito and Juana Amaya perform "Por Derecho" at Lisner Auditorium. See January 28-29. 8:00 p.m.

Monday, February 3: Reopening of West End Library after closed period for interior renovations. 10:00 a.m.*

Monday, February 3: "Ain't Misbehavin,'" featuring cabaret singer May Knott, performing gospel, spirituals, etc., including Stormy Weather, Stompin' at the Savoy, and Kate Smith, Judy Garland and Billy Holiday songs. Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770. \$16; members \$12. 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 4: Lecture and book signing, featuring social satirist Christopher Buckley, author of "No Way to Treat a Lady." Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770. \$16; members \$12. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 5: "Spies, Codes, Disguises," with masters of disguise Antonio and Jonna Mendez describing their espionage role during the cold war. Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770. \$15; members \$12. 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 7: Flamenco guitarist Tomatito performs with other musicians and a flamenco dancer at Lisner Auditorium. See January 28-29. 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12: Farmers' Market, with various produce and other vendors. Kogan Plaza, H Street between 21st and 22nd Street, N.W. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18: Lecture and book signing, with Robert Alexander, author of "The Kitchen Boy," dealing with the murders of the Romanovs. The book is a fictional narration, aided by Russian archival documents, of the events as witnessed by a kitchen boy. Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770. \$16; members \$12. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 19: Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting. Info: 736-1775. 7:00 p.m.

Through Saturday, February 22: "In Illo Tempore," an exhibition of 15 paintings and projects by Spanish artist Vicente Pascual. Luther W. Brady Art Gallery, 805 21st Street, N.W. 2nd floor. Info: 994-1423. Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Monday, February 24: Foggy Bottom Association meeting; speaker to be announced. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

*See article elsewhere in this issue.

New Owner Operates Watergate Exxon

The new face at Watergate Exxon belongs to Marc Medlej, one of the owners of the station at Virginia Avenue and Rock Creek Parkway. He and his partner own several stations located in northern Virginia. He took over the station in late November.

The new owner is in frequent touch with Leon Miranian, who he said was influenced to sell to him rather than other potential owners because he "wanted to keep it as much the same as possible." He has made minor changes, such as selling snacks and soft drinks, as well as a new interior paint job.

In the garage section you will see mechanics Jeffrey Applewhite and Victor Munivar, who also have experience at stations in Quantico and Franconia. Medlej is a GW alumnus, with degrees in computer sciences and finance. He is married, has three children, and lives in Annandale.

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Actions & Efforts

In early October Mel Maeda wrote to the Department of Public Works that a long-standing accumulation of water on I Street seemed to pose a mosquito threat. The area, just beyond and below a storm drain, is the scene of accumulated water after every rain. Residents near the 26th Street site, and those who park their cars there, know it has been a nuisance for some time.

Mel has also contacted the city over the huge puddle (small pond?) in the walkway between 25th Street and Virginia Avenue. This water accumulation has existed for some time, and seems to be increasing in size. Another resident, Ralph Burr, has been working on this problem as well, and at one point cajoled some Park Service employees to work on the drains. However, since this land does not belong to the Park Service, and the drains are again stopped up, these efforts to clean up this were inadequate.



The "pond" reflects the nearby Watergate building.

The "pond" saga continued; Mel contacted the D.C. Department of Transportation in November, which responded about a nearby but different problem, and then a promise of an inspection in December resulted in a report back about a blocked catch basin. In early January the Chief of Bridge and Street

Maintenance was successful in having the problem located and on January 8 his staff cleared the drain and the "pond" disappeared. Mr. Vreeland who was in charge of the work detail advised, however, that the surface of the walkway is uneven so there will be some water accumulation from time to time.

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Critic's Corner

By Bob Anthony

Corcoran Emphasizes Art as Entertainment

The 47th Corcoran Biennial continues with its previous emphasis on art as entertainment with lots of multimedia and cartoonish drawings to charm the adult; some of the sections are closed to children due to the perversity and sexual nature of some of the items. Again, the complaint by the art purists will be that gross commercialism has again reared its ugly head. And Tim Hawkinson's "Drip" has no redeeming features except to show the ugliness of a stalagmite above the ground with a whirling multi-computer grinding out the dripping water. So, again, one concludes that the artists just can't realize naturalistic art. But, in the age of perfect photography, perhaps movement

into inane and insane fantasies must come forth. The artists are Linda Besemer, Janet Cardiff/George Bures Miller, Nancy Davidson, Marcel Dzama, Jacob El Hanani, Ken Feingold, Kojo Griffin, Tim Hawkinson, Bruce Nauman, Nigel Poor, Washingtonian Susan Smith-Pinelo and Bruce Yonemoto. (To 3/10/03)

Folger Presents "Thys Boke is Myne"

The current library exhibit at the Folger of "Thys Boke is Myne" offers some fine moments as it presents books used by famous historical figures . . . Donne, Dryden, Spenser, Raleigh . . . even Langston Hughes. Particularly fascinating is the De Vere bible which, because of his underlining of passages, served the argument that he may have written the Bard's works. And, this exhibit offers ten times the excitement of the current stage work. (To 3/1/03)

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